



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**AUGUST 6, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE**  
**INDEPENDENCE MAN PLEADS GUILTY**  
**TO BEING DRUG ADDICT IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to being addicted to a controlled substance while also in possession of a firearm. Today's conviction, Graves said, marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

**Jeremy P. Whitley**, 24, of Independence, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Whitley** admitted that he was in possession of a Taurus .38-caliber special revolver on Oct. 29, 2003, while also being an addict of methamphetamine. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any user of a controlled substance to also be in possession of a firearm.

**Whitley** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 6, 2004.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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